**Export of Sugar Under O.G.L.**

1613. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from the State Governments particularly from the Government of Maharashtra seeking export of sugar under the Open General Licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of the record production of sugar and the high cost of inventory carrying the export quota of sugar is proposed to be given to the sugar producing States on the pattern of export quota being given under the O.G.L; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra vide letter dated 6th July, 1996 has requested that minimum 30 to 40 lakh tonnes of sugar may be released from Maharashtra for export and this export may please be allowed through Open General Licence to provide great relief to the sugar factories in liquidating their surplus stocks.

(c) and (d) Consequent upon the promulgation of the Sugar Export Promotion (Repeal) Ordinance, 1997 on 15.1.1997, the export of sugar has been decanalised whereby export can be carried out by individuals, firms, sugar factories, etc. after getting registration Allocation Certificates from the Agricultural Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) within the ceiling prescribed by the Ministry of Food.

**Cleaning of Rivers**

1614. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any plan from the Government of Orissa for cleaning of rivers and environmental improvement of the towns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the plan has been posed for the foreign assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pollution abatement schemes for river Mahanadi at Cuttack and for river Brahmini at Talcher, Chandbali and Dharamshala towns have been received from Govt. of Orissa. These schemes have been approved as part of the National River Conservation Plan. Work on the scheme has begun.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Seeds Policy**

1615. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to have a fresh look at the Seeds Policy instead of leaving the field for the private sector;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures contemplated to raise the seed replacement rate for the self-pollinated crops such as wheat and rice to ensure additional production by invoking higher productivity per unit of land and natural resources ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The Government have constituted a Seed Policy Review Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. V.V. Rao, Vice-Chancellor, Andhra Pradesh Agriculture University to review the existing seed policy.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The projections for certified seed distribution for the IX plan envisage a higher seed replacement rate than has hitherto been achieved. This is sought to be done through the following measures :

(a) Subsidy on distribution of certified seeds is provided under crop development schemes to encourage farmers to use certified seed.

(b) Transport subsidy is given for distribution of certified seeds in north-eastern States and for not easily accessible and remote areas of all states.

(c) Use of certified seed is promoted through certified seed demonstrations and farmers' training programme.

(d) New varieties suited to different agro-climatic conditions are periodically released and popularised through minikit programmes and frontline demonstrations.

**Vacant Posts of Scientists**

1616. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of scientists at the senior level and research management categories filled since the recommendations of the Mandal Commission were adopted by the Government;

(b) the number out of these posts reserved for the OBCs and SC/ST categories; and

(c) the number of posts actually filled and the number of posts lying vacant ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Sir, a total of 190 posts of senior level scientists and 92 posts of Research Management Position (RMP) have been filled by the ICAR since the adoption of Mandal Commission.

(b) As per Government of India instructions contained in DOP&AR O.M. No. 9/2/73-Estt. (SCT) dated 23.6.75 amended from time to time, the reservations for SC/ST/ OBCs apply to appointments made to scientific & technical posts upto and including the lowest grade of group A (Class I).

Accordingly reservation for SC/ST/OBC have been provided to scientific posts in the pay scale of Rs. 2200-4000. Reservation to scientific posts in Sr. grade of Rs. 3700-5700 & above is not applicable.

(c) A total of 1507 posts of Senior level Scientists and 92 posts of Research Management Position (RMP) are actually filled and 892 posts of Senior level Scientists and 55 posts of RMP are lying vacant.

**Seizure of RDX**

1617. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hyderabad police has unearthed an ISI inspired plot to abduct all politicians for securing the release of the leader of Kashmiri militants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there was a great conspiracy to destabilise the law and order in the country;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has assessed the situation after seizing RDX in a number of States; and

(e) if so, the assistance provided to these States to check this menace ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Government are aware of reports of this nature from time to time. All concerned agencies are maintaining close watch to prevent any such designs to succeed.

(c) to (e) Recently, there have been instances wherein RDX explosives, arms, ammunitions etc. were smuggled into the country for disturbing Law & Order. Government is alive to the situation created by anti-national elements and is taking all necessary steps to thwart the evil designs of these forces which includes gearing up of intelligence machinery, stricter enforcement of existing regulations and close coordination between the concerned Central and State agencies.

**Supply of Seeds & Fertilizers**

1618. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the farmers of Uttar Pradesh particularly of Allahabad have not been provided adequate quantity of seeds and fertilisers which has put them to great loss;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures the Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

**Agreement with French Company**

1619. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has entered into an agreement with a French Company under the Indo-French protocol for the development of dairy industry;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement reached at;

(c) the time by which the agreement is likely tc be implemented; and

(d) the extent to which the Government got latest technology equipments which will inturn help to improve the function of the dairy industry in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

**Indiscriminate Defiance of SC Orders**

1620. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has taken serious note of indiscriminate defiance of its orders by the senior officials of the Ministry who are not enforcing the laws regarding curbing industrial units from using and dumping the banned noxious substances all over the country; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to enforce the laws ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court has indicated that the implementation of the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 by the concerned authorities has not been satisfactory. The action taken by the Government includes :

(i) Empowerment of the State Pollution Control Boards to deal with violations of the provisions of the Hazardous Wastes Rules.